

The Independent.

Edwin A. Rayner

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PRICE FIVE CENTS.

LIVELY MEETING.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GRADE MAPS REFERRED BACK.

Committee to Draw Up Specifications to Advertise for Bids—Other Matter Before the Township Committee.

Second Ward was not represented. Chairman Gilbert called the Township Committee to order last Monday night, but Messrs. Cockfair and Halpenny made their appearance shortly after the minutes of the previous meeting were read. Mr. Ridd was the only member of the Committee absent.

Presence of the Township Committee, with the fact that the awarding of a contract for making grade maps was to be decided last night, and many to believe that it would be a lively meeting, and by the time that it was reached the room was well filled.

Attention from the residents of Maclis was, asking for a gas lamp at the corner of that avenue and Midland Avenue was referred to the Gas Committee.

Halpenny, Chairman of the Side-Committee, said he had received a letter from Mrs. Meyers, who owns property on the corner of Hillside Avenue and Clark Street, in front of which had been laid, M. S. Meyers, letter, refused to pay the assessment for laying the walk, claiming that measurement was incorrect. Under the Committee ordered otherwise Halpenny stated that he would take the walk taken up, after giving Meyers a reasonable time in which to make the assessment. He said the assessment was correct.

Application for stone gutters on Somers Street from Messrs. Stiles McGowan was referred to the Road Committee.

Sibert, the Township Treasurer, had been rumored that the Committee were exceeding the appropriation, and he would give a comparative statement with that of last year. The statement was read out to date this year was \$31,753.97, against \$30,081.75 of last year. The cash on hand was \$2,500, against \$1,000 of last year. Thus it will be seen while the amount paid out this year exceeds that of 1890 by a little more than \$1,000 the receipts have been more than \$3,000 greater. Mr. Sibert stated that he was ready at any time to give any information desired on the subject.

Committee on Grade Maps and Maps reported that they had compared with Gen. Newton and others whom they had been referred by E. D. Newton, the lowest bidder for this contract, and had received answers commending his ability very highly. Halpenny moved that the report of the Committee be received and that Johnson be employed to do this work, and that the Township Counsel be directed to draw up a contract.

Rayner moved as a substitute that the matter be referred back to the Committee with instructions to prepare specifications and to advertise for bids in work.

Halpenny thought the matter had delayed long enough.

Rayner said it had been the custom everywhere to advertise for bids for involving an expenditure of a large amount of money; that the public be informed, and that the bids should be received and read in open meeting. He did not believe that these men would know what amount of work there was to be done. He had talked with Johnson, and from the conversation was positive that Mr. Johnson did not understand the amount of work that was to be done. He had no doubt as to Johnson's competency and ability in the work. There had been no specifications submitted, and the men could not understand what work there was to do. The work was very important, as it was a guide and information for the Township Committee. East Orange expended \$13,000 for having a grade made. Bloomfield could take the specifications. Only three engineers had been asked to bid for this work, and he was convinced that Mr. Johnson did not understand what amount of work was expected, as the other engineers had. He would not vote for this contract and extend the appropriation unless the bids were on detailed specifications.

Sibert said he was very sorry the gentleman did not know all the details. He did not think any honest contractor would come in competition after all. It was not the full Committee's fault if the work was not properly done. It was they who would be liable. They would throw around the town would suffer no harm.

Mr. Ridd of Glen Ridge asked Sibert to say something on the subject. He said it was not alone the funeral of Ridd and Sibert. If it was, the taxpayers would have to pay for the obsequies.

The Chairman ruled that no citizen could speak while the motion was pending.

Mr. Rayner said that a sub-committee was not held responsible for work done, but the full Committee were responsible, unless an individual member had voted against it.

A call for the question resulted in the adoption of Mr. Rayner's substitute by the following vote:

For—Cockfair, Rayner, Hummel, and Gilbert.

Against—Sibert and Halpenny.

Mr. Cockfair said he would like to hear Mr. Wilde's views on this subject.

Mr. Halpenny moved that any citizen be allowed to speak on the matter, which was agreed to.

Mr. Wilde said he had not come to the meeting to talk on the subject of grade maps; he did not know the subject was to be brought up, but as he was present he had been greatly interested. He said the survey of East Orange had been very satisfactory. He had been told by Joseph L. Munn, who drew the specifications, that the map had already saved the township more than its cost—over \$14,000. A great deal had been said about the \$2,500 map. Mr. Beach, who was in the Committee at the time that map was begun, had the right idea on this subject. He was in possession of the field notes made by Mr. McComb in connection with this \$2,500 map. He would give them to any competent man doing this work, and they would doubtless prove valuable. He did not know who the bidders were, neither did he know Mr. Johnson, but it was absurd to propose to survey this town without specifications. He was opposed to large expenditures, but he believed that when a thing was to be done, it should be done right. East Orange saved more than the cost of the survey years ago, by having it done right. All he would say was that no contract should be signed unless they had specifications like East Orange.

Mr. Harry E. Richard said he did not come to say anything—no one ever did—but there had been no intention to make a survey like that of East Orange. This \$3,000 was to survey about twenty miles of streets. Great pressure had been brought to bear at the Town Meeting to make an appropriation for a grade map. He was afraid that if this appropriation had not been made the people would not have made any appropriation for stone road construction. Last year's Committee had employed engineers who wrote very agreeable newspaper articles, saying that the maps and survey could be made for \$10,000 or \$12,000. He had been told that twenty miles of streets should be surveyed for \$3,000, and that was what the Town Meeting wanted. He said he did not know where it originated, but some people had an idea that there was a jack-in-the-box in this affair. He doubted if the tax-payers would pass a \$15,000 appropriation, but if they should pass it he was willing that his share should be placed upon his tax-bill.

Mr. Cockfair remarked that he need not worry, the people wanted stone roads more than they did a map.

Mr. Wilde said he knew nothing about Jack-in-the-box, and he did not think much of people who talked about them. He thought the field-notes should be the property of the town; that the twenty miles should be thoroughly done, so that the next man need not do the work over again. With Mr. McComb's field-notes a great deal of the work need not be done over again, as it was thorough. But the matter that brought him before the Committee was to request that a grade be established on Herman Street, running from West Belleville Avenue to Bloomfield Avenue. The street had been dedicated to and accepted by the Town Committee in 1874. The matter was referred.

Mr. Gilbert remarked that he was surprised that the Town Counsel should recommend to give a contract without specifications.

The Township Counsel denied that this was so; he would have them iron-clad.

Mr. Olmsted, who was present, said that he had not been asked to bid on anything definite. The Committee told him that they were not familiar with that work, and asked him if he would put in writing what he thought should be done. He did so, and supposed the same request had been made of the other gentlemen. His bid was based on his letter, which stated exactly what he was to do. He expected that the sub-committee would base the bid on what he had written. He was surprised to learn that his letter had not been read in connection with his bid.

Chairman Gilbert, taking the floor, said that Mr. Johnson's bid was dated in May, Olmsted's in June, and Owen's in July. If all the estimates were in why did not the Committee report before? If they received letters from experts why did not they let the

rest of the Committee know? He thought that all bids should be sent to the Clerk and opened in the full Committee, and then referred to the sub-committee. Each man should bid on the same specifications.

Mr. Sibert said the Chairman labored under a misapprehension. The Committee had several conferences. They had asked that the surveyors state in writing what work could be done for the \$3,000. He preferred to bid, but felt bound to vote for the lowest bidder.

Mr. Hummel moved that the Chairman of the Road Committee see Abram S. Hewitt in regard to the Greenwood Lake Railroad bridge, which was agreed to.

A resolution was passed allowing a discount of two per cent. on all taxes paid before October 1.

He Thought His Crab-apples Had Been Stolen.

A prominent resident of Midland Avenue is the proud owner of a crab-apple tree. This year the tree was loaded with an extra fine lot of fruit, and every time his gaze rested upon this tree he congratulated himself upon the prospect of having an abundance of crab-apples jelly during the coming winter. This prominent resident is also a regular reader of THE INDEPENDENT, and from a recent issue of this valuable paper he learned that garden thieves had been unusually active in the vicinity of his home. Becoming a little worried lest his fine crop of crab-apples might excite the cupidity of these unwelcome visitors he asked his wife the other evening if she was ready to convert these crab-apples into jelly, and if so he would pick them early the next morning. She consented to this arrangement, so he arose that morning before the sun and proceeded to the tree to gather the fruit. But picture his dismay as in the gray light of early dawn he could not see a single crab-apple hanging from the limbs of his favorite tree. He searched carefully on the ground, but no crab-apples were to be found. He then made up his mind that garden thieves had been around during the night, and that they had not left a single apple upon the tree. He returned to the house and informed his wife of this sad news, and then concluded that he would take an early train to the city. On his return home, in the evening his wife told him she had found the crab-apples undisturbed on the tree, and had them picked and made into jelly during his absence.

Union Prayer Meeting.

The usual monthly Union Prayer Meeting was held on Thursday evening, in the Baptist Church. Though many people are just now out of town, the church was filled. The service was conducted by the Rev. C. A. Cook, who gave an account of the meetings at Mr. Moody's Christian Conference at Northfield, Mass., which he described as one of the most notable conferences that has ever been held. He mentioned some of the prominent speakers from different parts of the world and noting the interesting features of their addresses. His remarks were listened to with marked attention, and were evidently an inspiration for a better life and work to many during the coming fall and winter. He suggested that the Christian people of Bloomfield should unite their forces for some definite work during the coming months.

Arrested for Bathing.

John Hewitt, Moses and Louis Bender of this place and John Heffner of Newark went swimming in the canal near the gas-house on Sunday last. Officer Baylis came along and gathered them in and took them before Justice Post, who released them upon promising to pay a fine of twenty-five cents each. The boys think that their arrest was unjust, as each of them were a pair of trousers.

John Kelly, Michael O'Brien and Thomas Dempsey, who said they resided in Orange, were arrested last Sunday by the police for bathing in the canal in defiance of the ordinances. They were taken before Justice Post who imposed a fine of \$3.45 upon each, which was paid. It was a costly swim.

Opposed to the Branch Road.

Samuel Moore of this place and William Jacobus of Montclair are the authorized agents of Francis M. Eppley in the matter of getting signatures to the petition for the proposed branch road to Montclair. Messrs. Jacobus and Moore report good progress with the exception of the property owners on Glen Ridge Avenue. They seem to rather oppose the idea.

His Arm Broken.

Cecil Cook, the five-year-old son of the Rev. C. A. Cook of the Baptist Church, fell from the stoop of his father's house one day last week and broke his right arm. The little fellow bore the pain nobly, and is doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

Tennis shoes, Etc., at Shoenthal's, the Leading Shoe House, 312 Glenwood Avenue. Advt.

SHALL BLOOMFIELD JOIN

ORANGE, WOULD ASSUME ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF THE TRUNK-LINE.

Prospect of Law Suits—Belleville and Jersey City Would Oppose Emptying the Sewage in the Passaic River.

Chas. W. Halpenny of the Committee on Sewerage reported to the Township Committee last Monday night that he had expected a final report from the engineers, but had received none. The citizens of East Orange had held a meeting, and were undecided whether to enter into this project, owing to the opposition which would be met with in attempting to run the sewer through the township of Belleville.

Another serious objection to the townships joining in this scheme was the fact that the city of Orange would assume absolute control of the trunk-line, while the townships would simply pay their share of the expense and have the privilege of using the sewer.

It had been suggested by men in East Orange to appoint a commission to construct the sewer, and to give the townships a majority vote in it.

Mr. Halpenny said that the people of Belleville had become very much aroused over this matter. A public meeting was to be held in that place on Thursday night to protest against it. Jersey City, whose water works were near Belleville, had signified a willingness to join with that township in opposing it.

A prominent resident of Belleville had told him that he thought it was an outrage that such a thing was contemplated; that it would ruin the township. No tidal chamber could be erected and maintained without becoming an unbearable nuisance, and he felt positive that the courts would not permit it.

With all these things staring them in the face, the Committee thought it would be foolish to enter into this scheme. Many thought the engineers' estimates too low. At any rate these estimates did not include the cost of extending law suits.

Although the townships had been asked until August 20 to decide whether or not they would join in this scheme, the Committee would simply report progress, and await further developments.

The Montclair Herald of this week contains the following editorial in reference to Bloomfield and East Orange not joining Orange and Montclair in building the trunk-line sewer:

"What is the matter with Bloomfield and East Orange? Are they going to commit the stupendous blunder of not joining with Montclair and Orange in the trunk sewer to tide water? Why do they hesitate and crawl about like the undecided man who sat up all night because he could not make up his mind which boot to take off first? East Orange has some reason on her side. She has spent a great sum of money for a more or less satisfactory system of sewerage, which she expects to sooner or later abandon, and must finally abandon because it is already too limited to take all the sewage that the town has to dispose of. Still she has a system of sewerage and can, when she gets ready, extend it to tide water. If her politicians or other citizens are actuated by a feeling of jealousy toward Orange, probably the taxpayers will cheerfully pay out a few hundred thousand dollars to gratify this noble feeling. But our neighbor, Bloomfield, we cannot understand her fatal hesitation, we fancied that this town was sufficiently touched with the spirit of progress to try and advance and take her place with the enterprising towns of this county. But we were apparently mistaken. We fancy that Bloomfield will yet 'brace up' and take action before it is too late."

East Orange Decides Not to Join.

The Township Committee of East Orange held a special meeting Wednesday evening, and the long-disputed question of entering into the proposed trunk line sewerage with Orange, Bloomfield and Montclair came up for final action and was lost. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jepson, and immediately Mr. Nott, Chairman of the Sewerage Committee, was called upon and read the following communication from the Township Committee of Belleville:

Whereas, It has come to the attention of the Township Committee of Belleville, through the public press, that it was the intention of the city of Orange and the townships of East Orange, Montclair and Bloomfield to lay through the township of Belleville a public sewer for the accommodation of said city and townships, and it is deemed that the emptying thereof into the Passaic River at Belleville would be a great nuisance; would be a detriment to public health and a pollution of the Passaic River, whose waters are used for drinking purposes by thousands of citizens of the adjoining counties, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Township Committee of Belleville, in the county of Essex, that notice be sent to the city of Orange and the townships of East Orange, Bloomfield and Montclair that we shall resist by every lawful means the laying of said sewer through our territory.

After reading the communication Mr. Nott addressed the Committee and said that the Sewer Committee had carefully considered the undertaking, and would recommend to the Township Committee that it would be unwise to join the other townships at the present time. He then offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Township Clerk notify the Mayor and Common Council of the city of Orange, that while we appreciate the opportunity given East Orange to participate with them in building a sewer to Passaic River, after careful consideration we have decided that we are not ready to join them in the undertaking.

The resolution was adopted.

What Belleville Thinks of It.

The Belleville Press said last week: "The audacity of the proposition to impose upon Belleville and Woodside the burden of the disposition of the sewage of the towns of Orange, East Orange, Bloomfield and Montclair is becoming daily more apparent. The Woodside Improvement Association held a rousing meeting at Heller's Hall last Friday evening, at which resolutions were adopted denouncing the proposition in the strongest terms. All the speakers manifested a spirit of bitter indignation against the scheme, and the applause with which their remarks were greeted showed that the audience shared this feeling. Additional proof of this was furnished in raising \$1,100 by subscriptions with which to carry on the fight."

"The river, during the past two months has been in a filthy condition. Even in washing, the odor has given offense; and as to drinking it, Dr. Titus, the Health Officer of Newark, said a short time ago that it was not fit to water cattle with. Boating parties on the river have been deprived of a good deal of their pleasure by the noisome condition of the stream. Canoe bottoms when taken out of the river were frequently found to be coated and smeared with filth. The effect upon the river of the influx of the Passaic City sewage is said to be very apparent. Mr. Wheeler, the proprietor of the Bend View House, informed a reporter that this was the fact, and said the banks of the stream were lined with the deposit of filth from the Passaic City sewers. What would it be when Orange, East Orange, Bloomfield and Montclair throw their hundreds of thousands of gallons per day, yes, in one short hour, into the stream?"

The Sewage Basin at Woodside.

Engineer C. P. Bassett's attention was called to the reference made at the meeting in Woodside last week to the location of the tidal basin at Woodside, into which the sewage is to be emptied. In speaking of this Mr. Bassett said:

"The fact is, these people have no idea of what we expect to do. One of the first moves Woodside residents would make, providing they were a municipality, would be to construct a sewer basin for the benefit and improvement of their town. They would anticipate no danger or epidemic from this system, and more, it would be considered a sanitary necessity. That is just what our tidal chamber will be, simply an enlargement of the sewer at that point, to accommodate for less than twelve hours the flow from Orange, and possibly from three other townships. The chamber will be airtight and completely underground. No sewage will be in it long enough to become putrid, and besides this, it will be occasionally cleaned out thoroughly. The sewage that will pass through this tidal chamber is not like the matter from Newark, being only the refuse from houses. No street mud that forms in banks and clogs, as is the case with Newark, will be introduced in it."

In conclusion Mr. Bassett said that the residents of Woodside were at perfect liberty to inspect the plans, and a careful inspection would at once show them how incorrect their assumptions are regarding the matter.

Gas for Passenger Cars.

The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company has equipped a few of its passenger coaches with gas. The company is having a gas plant completed at Hoboken. All the cars on the road are to be illuminated by gas.

The Reunion.

The Citizens' Committee of the Thirtieth Regiment reunion celebration held a meeting on Tuesday night, and heard reports from the sub-committees, which were very satisfactory.

The Tax Duplicate.

The Township Committee met on Tuesday afternoon and passed the tax duplicate without making any alterations in Assessor Baxter's valuations.

The Electric Clock.

Chief Johnson has received the electric clock which is to be placed in the Truck House on Wednesday. It will strike the bell automatically.

TWO BURGLARIES.

THE RESIDENCES OF GEO. DUNLOP AND ABEL BAKER ENTERED

An Attempt Also Made to Break Into Mrs. Bromley's House on Bloomfield Avenue.

The residence of George J. Dunlop on Clark Street was entered and robbed some time after midnight on Monday.

Entrance was effected through a window in the front of the house. A knife had been used to push the window-catch back.

The following is a list of the articles stolen: Two solid silver berry spoons, one pair solid silver sugar tongs, one half dozen silver-plated butter plates, one dozen solid silver after-dinner coffee spoons, a solid silver butter-knife, an overcoat, and a meerschaum pipe and cigar-holder, valued in all at about \$150. Among the articles stolen were many wedding presents, which were valued more highly on that account.

The meerschaum pipe that was stolen was highly prized by Mr. Dunlop, as it was a gift to him from the Prince of Wales.

A circumstance occurred which may have had some bearing on the robbery, and if so, there is a woman in the case. At nine o'clock Monday night a fine-looking young woman came to the door and inquired of Mr. Dunlop if he was in need of a girl to do housework. Mr. Dunlop said he was not, and the girl departed. Nothing more was thought of the occurrence, but the police think the girl was a stool-pigeon for the burglars. It is surmised that they were professionals, as every article on the buffet had been tested to see whether they were solid silver or not. An elegant cake-basket was overlooked by the thieves, and had they gone upstairs would have probably secured more booty, as a wallet with a large sum of money lay exposed upon the bureau; but they confined themselves to the one room. They must have been without a lantern as the floor was strewn with burnt matches. Word was sent to Justice Post, and he visited the house and said he would make a thorough investigation. The police of Newark were also notified.

The residence of Abel Baker on Linden Avenue was also visited by burglars early Thursday morning, entrance being effected through a kitchen window which had been left unlocked. The burglars were apparently amateurs, as the only articles taken from the dining-room table were a silver napkin ring and a butter-knife, leaving the other silver undisturbed. Frank H. Baker's spring overcoat was taken from the hat-rack, after which the burglars went upstairs, where a silver watch and a few trinkets were taken. The lock was removed from the door between the kitchen and dining-room.

The police of this place have been very vigilant since the robberies, and a close watch has been kept on all suspicious-looking characters, but so far their efforts have been without avail. It is thought by some of our townsmen that it was the work of Bloomfield parties, and it is strongly hinted that they may be natives of Italy. House-wives, take warning and see that your windows and doors are securely locked before you retire.

Burglars attempted to gain an entrance into the residence of Mrs. Rosetta Bromley, No. 718 Bloomfield Avenue, at four o'clock last Friday morning. A pane of glass had been cut out of a cellar window, and the men were about to enter when the inmates heard the noise and succeeded in frightening them away.

They are supposed to be burglars who are after canned fruit and the contents of ice-boxes.

Arrested For Horse Stealing.

Detective Carroll of Newark went to Elizabeth on Tuesday and brought back Frederick Miller, who was arrested in that place the other day for stealing a horse from Richard Tuers of Brookdale. Miller was arrested by an Elizabeth officer on suspicion, and it was afterward ascertained that the horse he had with him belonged to Tuers. After he was locked up in the Elizabeth police station, he tried to hang himself, but was cut down and prevented from doing himself any injury. On his arrival in Newark he was held for trial.

Death of Isaac Fairbanks.

Isaac Fairbanks, aged forty-five years, a former resident of this town, died at his home, No. 853 Columbus Avenue, New York city, on Monday last of Bright's disease. Funeral services were held from the residence of his brother-in-law, David G. Garabrant, on Thursday afternoon. Interment was made in Bloomfield Cemetery.

The balance of our summer shoes must be sold. Tan Oxford Ties, 60c., at Shoenthal's. He fits the feet. 312 Glenwood Avenue. The shoe house that is always in the lead. Advt.